

CLAIMS:

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1. A transport system having a plurality of processing units interconnected through a network, said processing units each executing predetermined processing for a mobile body, wherein:

each of said plurality of processing units comprises:

means for receiving location information indicative of a location at which a mobile body associated with the processing exists;

means for determining whether or not said processing is executed based on said location information; and

means for executing said processing based on the result of determination.

2. A transport system according to claim 1, wherein:

said means for receiving receives contents information indicative of the contents of a request for said processing; and

said means for determining determines whether or not processing corresponding to said contents information is executed based on said location information.

3. A transport system according to claim 1, wherein:

said existing location indicates a location at which said mobile body existed at the time said location

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information was transmitted.

4. A transport system according to claim 1,
wherein:

said location information indicates a location
at which said mobile body exists at the time said
processing should be executed; and

said means for receiving further receives
identification information for identifying said mobile
body.

5. A transport system according to claim 1,
wherein:

said location information indicates a location
at which said mobile body exists at the time said
processing should be executed; and

said means for receiving further receives time
information indicative of a time at which said
processing should be executed.

6. A transport system according to claim 1,
wherein:

said location information is transmitted from
said mobile body;

said location information indicates a location
at which said mobile body is moving when said location
information is transmitted; and

said means for determining compares the
location indicated by said location information with a
location at which said processing unit exists, and
determines that said processing should be executed when

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the result of the comparison indicates that the location indicated by said location information is within a predetermine distance from the location at which said processing unit exists.

7. An information processing method in a transport system having a plurality of processing units interconnected through a network, said processing units each executing predetermined processing for a mobile body, said method comprising the steps of:

said mobile body transmitting request information to at least one of said plurality of processing units, said request information including contents information indicative of contents of a request for said processing, and location information indicative of a location at which said mobile body exists;

a processing unit which has received said request information, transmitting said request information to said plurality of processing units through said network; and

each of said plurality of processing units which have received said request information, determining based on said location information whether or not said processing unit should execute processing corresponding to a request indicated by said contents information.

8. An information processing method according to claim 7, wherein:

said request information further includes

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identification information for identifying said mobile body.

9. An information processing method according to claim 7, wherein:

said mobile body periodically transmits confirmation information until said mobile body receives said processing after said request information is transmitted.

10. An information processing method according to claim 7, wherein:

when it is determined that said processing is executed by a plurality of processing units, said method further comprising maintaining the processing executed at the earliest time by one of said processing units, and discarding the processing executed by the rest of said processing units.

11. A processing unit interconnected with a plurality of identical processing units through a network to constitute a transport system for executing predetermined processing for a mobile body, said processing unit comprising:

a memory for storing a program for executing predetermined processing;

a communication interface connected to said network for receiving location information indicative of a location at which a mobile body associated with processing exists; and

a processor connected to said communication

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interface and said memory through a bus, for receiving said location information from said communication interface, determining whether or not said processing should be executed based on a program stored in said memory, and executing said processing based on the result of determination.

12. A processing unit in a transport system according to claim 11, wherein:

said communication interface receives contents information indicative of contents of a request for said processing; and

said processor determines whether or not said processing should be executed based on said location information.

13. A processing unit in a transport system according to claim 12, wherein:

said existing location indicates a location at which said mobile body existed at the time said location information was transmitted.

14. A processing unit in a transport system according to claim 12, wherein:

said location information indicates a location at which said mobile body exists at the time said processing should be executed; and

said communication interface further receives identification information for identifying said mobile body.

15. A processing unit in a transport system

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according to claim 12, wherein:

said location information indicates a location at which said mobile body exists at the time said processing should be executed; and

said communication interface further receives time information indicative of a time at which said processing should be executed.

16. A processing unit in a transport system according to claim 11, wherein:

said communication interface receives said location information transmitted from said mobile body; and

said processor compares the location indicated by said location information with a location at which said processing unit exists, and determines that said processing should be executed when the location indicated by said location information is within a predetermine distance from the location at which said processing unit exists.

17. A processing unit in a transport system according to claim 16, wherein:

said location information is at least one of a location at which said mobile body exists when said location information is transmitted, and a location at which said mobile body transmitting said location information is estimated to exist at the time requested processing is executed.

18. A processing unit in a transport system

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according to claim 16, wherein:

said processor determines whether at least one of a straight distance between a location indicated by said location information and a location at which said processing unit exists, and a distance between the location indicated by said location information and the location at which said processing unit exists, in consideration of a route on which said mobile body is moving, is within a predetermined distance.

19. A processing unit in a transport system according to claim 11, wherein:

said mobile body is a vehicle moving on a road; and

said processing unit is a road side station installed near said road.

20. A processing unit in a transport system according to claim 11, wherein:

said network is connected to a local server apparatus which stores information on a predetermined region; and

said processor executes processing for searching said local server apparatus for requested information through said communication interface as said predetermined processing.

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